RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS SURVEY DOCUMENTATION - ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS AND RENOVATIONS PLACE LEVEL FILES

Introduction

Beginning with January 2002, the Census Bureau began collecting data on permits authorized for additions, alterations and renovations on residential properties. These data cover permits issued for additions, remodeling, restructuring, improvements, replacements, and disaster rebuilding. This includes work done to the primary residential structure and on the residential property; such as sheds, pools, and driveways. The only permits excluded are for incidental maintenance and repairs that keep a property in its ordinary working condition.

Note to Data Users:

Data users should be aware that local laws regulate what types of projects require permits and these vary greatly around the country. Many jurisdictions only require permits for projects above a certain dollar amount or above a certain square foot size. It should also be noted that our survey is intended to only collect data on building or zoning permits issued, not plumbing and electrical permits. Since some plumbing and electrical work is included on building permits, there will be partial coverage of these data.

The Census Bureau does not plan to release any aggregate estimates by state or metropolitan area. A minimal amount of editing is performed to provide some reasonableness. However, most of the data on this file is the raw data as reported to the Census Bureau. Many permit offices do not require valuations to be listed on a permit application, so in those cases there will be no value reported on our file.

The building permit survey sends a questionnaire to about 8,600 permit offices each month. We typically receive responses from about 6,100 places. The file of data will only include those places that reported to us.

Any use of this data should include a citation that the source data is from the Census Bureau, unpublished data. Any aggregate data should not be cited to the Census Bureau.

File Formats

Monthly Data - The monthly file is cumulative over a calendar year. It will contain data records for each month from the beginning of the year through the current survey month including late reports and corrected data for prior months. For example, January will only include data for places that reported to us for that month. February will include data for places that reported in

February and any data we have received so far for January. The revised January data will have more places than the original file due to late reports received and some of the original places from the January file may have revised data. Since the size of this file will grow rapidly, the second half of the year will be created as two files, January through June and July through the current month.

File name format:

> Jan - Jun: ADDS<*yymm*>.TXT, where "*yymm*" is the survey date; i.e. January 2002 file is named: ADDS0201.TXT.

> Jul - Dec: ADDS<*yymm*>P1.TXT and ADDS<*yymm*>P2.TXT, where "*yymm*" is the survey date; i.e. July 2002 files are named: ADDS0207P1.TXT (Jan - Jun) and ADDS0207P2.TXT (July).

Annual Data - The first annual file will not be available until May 2003 for the calendar year 2002. This file will follow the same structure as the monthly file. It will contain monthly reports from all 12 months of the year and annual reports for those places that report annually. About 10,000 permit offices are in the annual survey and we also send annual survey forms to monthly reporters that have been delinquent most of the year. For this reason, some places will be listed on both the monthly and annual files.

File name format:

> ADDS<*yyyy*>P1.TXT, ADDS<*yyyy*>P2.TXT, and ADDS<*yyyy*>P3.TXT where "*yyyy*" is the survey year; i.e. 2002 files are named: ADDS2002P1.TXT (Jan - Jun), ADDS2002P2.TXT (Jul - Dec), and ADDS2002P3.TXT (Annual)

Record Layout

Field	Description
1	Survey Date (Format: YYYYMM)
2	Two-digit FIPS state code
3	Six-digit Building Permit Survey ID code
4	Three-digit FIPS county code
5	Three-digit Census Place code
6	Four-digit FIPS CMSA/MSA code code or "9999" if not in a CMSA or MSA
7	Four-digit FIPS PMSA code or "9999" if not a PMSA
8	Central City Code = '1' if the place is a central city of a metropolitan area

9	Zip Code of reporting permit office
10	Census Region code
11	Census Division code
12	Source code

1 - Building Permits C-404 survey form.

2 - Received data in electronic format.

3 - Received data by telephone

13	Blank field
14	Place Name
15	Total permits issued
16	Total valuation of the permits